## State of Idaho

## DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Department of Insurance Urges Consumers to be Proactive**

Be prepared for Influenza A outbreak

BOISE ID (May 1, 2009) – The government has declared a public health emergency in the United States. The World Health Organization has stated that Influenza A (H1N1), more commonly called Swine Flu, has a "strong signal that a pandemic is imminent."

The Idaho Department of Insurance alerts consumers to take a proactive stance and be prepared for any possible occurrence. Department Director Bill Deal said, "With the potential for an increased demand for health care services, now is the time to review your policy and be aware of your specific plan details."

The Department urges Idahoans to know what their health insurance policies cover regarding hospital admission, co-payments, prescription limitations and out-of-network coverages.

Consumers planning to travel to Mexico should know that American health insurance is generally not accepted outside of the United States. Talk to your insurance agent about coverage before you leave home.

A Consumer Alert with more detailed information has been issued by the Department and may be accessed from the Department's website, <a href="www.doi.idaho.gov">www.doi.idaho.gov</a>.

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